

21 May 2026

# NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source

## Water allocation update

There is no allocation increment to general security (B class) licence holders in the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source. The current general security (B class) account balance is about 97 gigalitres (GL), or an average of 40% of entitlement.

All higher priority access licences, supplementary and floodplain harvesting access licences have received their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July 2025. General security (A class) licences also received their maximum (100%) allocation for the 2025–26 water year on 29 August 2025.

This statement provides an update on current resource conditions and an outlook for likely water availability on 1 July 2026, based on NSW bulk resources received on 18 May 2026 and storage volumes as at 1 May 2026.

This is the final routine update for the 2025-26 water year for this water source. Any changes after this date will be reflected in the 2026-27 state-wide opening water allocation statements.

## Current allocation

21 May 2026	Allocation increment	Average account balance
General security (A class)	-	58%
General security (B class)	-	40%

## Key information

- A Section 324 Order is in place from 17 April 2026 to 30 September 2026, restricting take by floodplain harvesting (regulated river) and supplementary water access licence holders in the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source. Further details can be found at: [Temporary water restrictions](#).
  - Restrictions will be lifted if the active storage in the upper lakes of the Menindee Lakes System rises above 250 GL, and normal water sharing plan rules apply.

- Restrictions will apply again if the active storage in the upper lakes of the Menindee Lakes System falls below 250 GL.
- WaterNSW is closing temporary trade for the 2025-26 water year on 16 June 2026 at 11.59 pm. More information on the trade announcement can be found on [WaterNSW website](#).

## Resource outlook for 2026–27

This outlook for likely 1 July 2026 water availability is based on several assumptions. Water users are advised that forecast allocations are not certain, may change and should be used with caution. It aims to broadly guide water users with their end of year water management decisions.

Water users are reminded to check account limits and the carryover provisions on their entitlements, noting that water can be forfeit from some accounts after 30 June 2026.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs are secure for the 2026–27 water year.
- Higher priority water access licence holders including local water utility, stock and domestic and high security can expect their maximum (100%) allocations on 1 July.
- The allocation for general security (A class) entitlement holders will depend on factors such as inflows and usage for the remainder of this water year. Currently, there is a nominal resource deficit. Unless conditions improve, general security (A class) will receive no opening allocation on 1 July 2026.
- No opening allocation to general security (B class) is envisaged. Allocation to general security (B class) licenses can only occur once general security (A class) allocations have reached 100%. However, full access to account balances carried forward into the new year will be available.
- Floodplain Harvesting water access licence holders can expect their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July.
- Supplementary water access licence holders can expect their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July, however, access to this water is subject to periods of declared supplementary flow events.

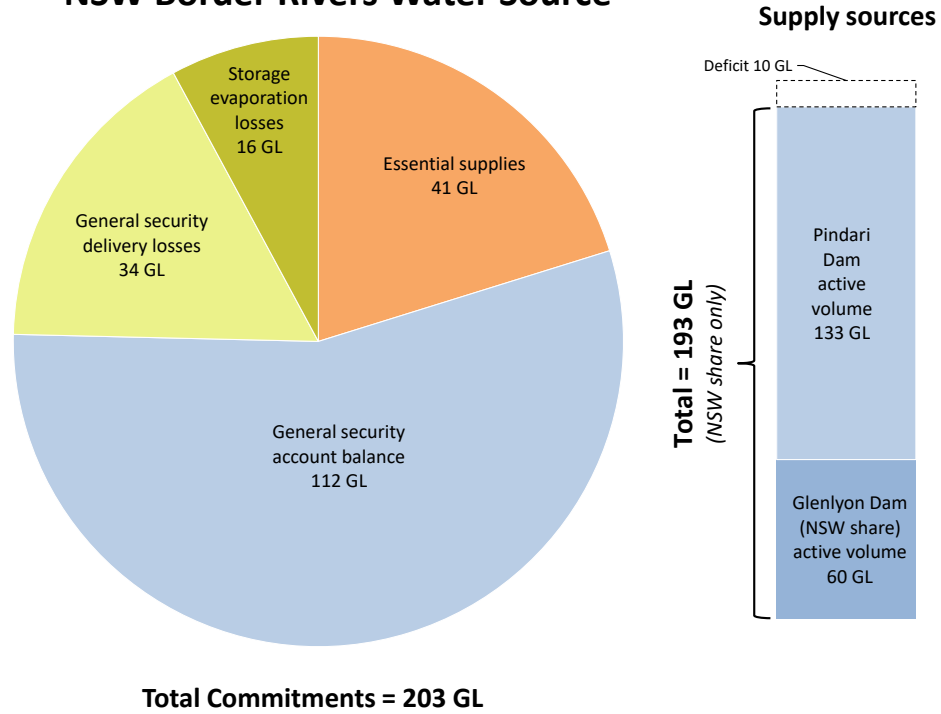
## Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 1 May 2026)	Volume (GL)
Total available resource (NSW) <sup>(1)</sup>	193
<i>less</i>	
Essential supplies <sup>(2)</sup>	41
General security account balance <sup>(3)</sup>	112
General security delivery loss <sup>(4)</sup>	34
Storage evaporation losses <sup>(5)</sup>	16
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(6)</sup>	(10)

**Notes:**

- (1) This includes Pindari Dam and the NSW share of Glenlyon Dam, as of 1 May 2026. In accordance with the New South Wales - Queensland Border Rivers Intergovernmental Agreement 2008, NSW has access to 57% of net inflows into Glenlyon Dam.
- (2) Water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for domestic, stock, towns, high security, replenishment, stimulus release (4 GL), delivery loss and operational requirements. This commitment is assisted by the minimum forecast inflows to storage. The full reserve is 41 GL. If depleted, this reserve is replenished first prior to allocation increment.
- (3) The general security account balance includes 3.9 GL of held environmental water (HEW) administered by environmental water holder/s. These environmental entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental water holder groups including the NSW Government and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (4) A reserve reflecting budgeted loss to deliver general security water. Traditionally, a 30% delivery loss has been budgeted for this river system. The loss reserve is continually assessed, and if depleted it is topped up as a priority from resource improvements, to ensure that allocated water can be delivered.
- (5) Storage evaporation loss is based on forecast storage depletion over the next 24 months.
- (6) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. A deficit is identified in this assessment, which will be monitored closely.

### Resource distribution as at 1 May 2026 NSW Border Rivers Water Source



### Water allocation in 2025–26

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2025–26	Account balance
1-Jul	Domestic and stock	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	Local water utility	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	General security (A class)	0.30 ML/unit share	0.30 ML/unit share	37%
1-Jul	General security (B class)	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	54%
28-Jul	General security (A class)	0.10 ML/unit share	0.40 ML/unit share	47%
29-Aug	General security (A class)	0.60 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share	98%
29-Aug	General security (B class)	0.08 ML/unit share	0.08 ML/unit share	49%
2-Oct	General security (B class)	0.14 ML/unit share	0.22 ML/unit share	62%
29-Oct	General security (B class)	0.03 ML/unit share	0.25 ML/unit share	65%
19-Dec	General security (B class)	0.01 ML/unit share	0.26 ML/unit share	65%

\* Maximum allowable as per the water sharing plan.

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## Water sharing plan rules

This statement includes plain language information on the plan rules relevant to water allocation below. This is based on our knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. Water users should verify the information as required before making any water management decisions.

- Stimulus flow account is to be credited 4,000 ML at the start of the water year. The account can carry over unused balances into the next water year, subject to the total balance not exceeding 8,000 ML.
- Domestic and stock, local water utility and high security licence categories are to receive an allocation of 100% of their share component at the start of the water year. These licences cannot carry over unused balances into the next water year.
- General security (A class) access licences receive allocation only after all higher priority requirements are met. The maximum allocation in a year to this category is 100%.
- General security (B class) licences cannot receive an allocation until general security (A class) licences received their maximum allocation (100%).
- Any unused water of general security accounts (A class and B class) can be carried over to the next water year. The account balance at any time must not exceed 100% of entitlement.
- Supplementary water access licences are to receive an allocation of 100% of entitlement at the start of the water year, unless a growth-in-use measure is required. The closing balance cannot be carried over into the next water year.
- Floodplain harvesting licences are to receive an allocation of 100% of entitlement at the start of the year, unless a growth-in-use measurement is required. The closing balance can be carried over into the next water year, but the account balance must not exceed 500% of entitlement.

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## Useful links

- Water allocation guide – We produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for this water source is available at the following link: [Resource assessment process | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation statement – The water allocation statement for all water sources is available at the following link: [Water allocation statements | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation dashboard – The dashboard on water availability and allocations for regulated river water sources is available at the following link: [Allocations dashboard | NSW Government Water](#)

- Water sharing plan – The water sharing plan for this water source is available at the following link: [Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source 2021](#)

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## Further information

The next water allocation statement for this water source will be included in the state-wide opening water allocation statements on **Wednesday, 6 am, 1 July 2026** .

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